

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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25X1 SUBJECT Economic - Copper industry

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Material has been acquired and part of the work done in installing a second furnace. Its actual erection must wait until the rolling mill, which now produces 1,800 tons per month, reaches its maximum or double the present production, since the erection of the second furnace is conditioned by the normal production rhythm of the rolling mill. The rolling mill has not reached its maximum production yet because of a delay in the delivery of part of the equipment. A German expert [unnamed], when on an official mission in Egypt, visited the plant and expressed his surprise at seeing the rolling mill producing only a few months after it was installed, for in Europe it is calculated that such a mill would produce normally only a year after its installation. The installation took 4 months, from February to July, and production started weak in July but increased in August and September as the personnel became better trained. Production increased from 50 to 60 tons per day and by 21 October 1952 reached 2,366 tons.

In addition to producing iron bars and sections, the plant also refines and rolls copper and stamps aluminum to be used in kitchen utensils. The copper used is either local or imported, and tubes and bars are made in copper and alloys. There is brass smelting for alloys by means of two furnaces, one electric and the other running on mazut. The company is able to supply the entire local market, which requires up to 6,000 tons of copper or alloy products per year?/.

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Production figures are as follows: 50-60 tons per day of round-nosed plane iron for concrete reinforcing, 10 tons per day of copper plates and disks, 2 tons per day of copper tubes and tubes of copper alloys, and one ton per day of aluminum kitchen utensils.

The annual national production of reinforcing iron is 80,000-100,000 tons to meet the national demand, of which the Egyptian Copper Works will produce 20,000 tons with one furnace and 30,000-40,000 tons with two furnaces.

Metal is tested in a mechanical laboratory for such things as resistance to traction and in a chemical laboratory, which tests the molten metal before each pouring.

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